

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

OC-05 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00

WRD-01 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 /078 W

----- 116386

R 060334Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 853

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: LATEST HIJACKING INCIDENT IN MINDANAO

REF: MANILA 17126

1. EIGHT FILIPINO CREWMEN SEIZED FROM HIJACKED TUGBOAT OF SORIANO-INDONESIAN JOINT VENTURE KAYAN RIVER TIMBER CO. ON DEC 28 ARE STILL BEING HELD HOSTAGE ON BASILAN ISLAND, ACCORDING TO SORIANO OFFICIAL. HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE BEING HANDLED ENTIRELY BY MILITARY (ADMIRAL ESPALDON) AND IS OUT OF COMPANY HANDS.

2. INCIDENT WHICH HAS RECEIVED MODERATE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OCCURRED NE OF BASILAN ISLAND WHEN HIJACKERS (PRESUMED TO BE MUSLIM REBELS) SEIZED TUGBOAT TOWING INCOMPLETED HULL BOUND FOR SITE OF COMPANY OPERATIONS IN KALIMANTAN. ONE CREW MEMBER WOUNDED IN INITIAL ATTACK WAS RELEASED BY REBELS BEARING NOTE DEMANDING P2 MILLION RANSOM. AS IN PAST INCIDENTS, MILITARY SPOKESMAN HAVE TOLD PRESS NO RANSOM WILL BE PAID.

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3. ACCORDING AP, THREE HIJACKERS WERE KILLED AND A FOURTH CAPTURED DURING SUBSEQUENT OPERATION IN WHICH NAVY RECOVERED THE TUG (BUT NOT THE HOSTAGES) ON DEC 31.

4. COMMENT: HIJACKING OCCURRED IN SAME GENERAL AREA AS NOV 7 KIDNAPPING OF JAPANESE FISHING TECHNICIANS (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS). INCIDENT COINCIDES WITH RECENT INCREASED FIGHTING IN AREA OF ZAMBOANGA PROVINCES WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO USUAL LOCAL PRESS BLACKOUT. WORTH NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH TUG IS OWNED BY COMPANY OF SORIANOS (WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS) AND WAS ENTIRELY CREWED BY FILIPINOS, THE TUG IS INDONESIAN REGISTERED AND FLIES INDONESIAN FLAG. SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, FISHERMEN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MANILA00198  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760003-0507  
**From:** MANILA  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MANILA 17126  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LATEST HIJACKING INCIDENT IN MINDANAO  
**TAGS:** PINS, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006